



Annual Conference

“BACK TO THE FUTURE”

SPEAKERS’ BIOGRAPHIES

(in order of appearance on the conference programme)

4TH OCTOBER 2023

Post your views on the NIPEC conference at #NIPEC23

Provide feedback and engage with us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/nipec

Conference presentations will be available on our website

www.nipec.hscni.net

Kieran McCormick Interim NIPEC Council Chair – Chair of morning Conference programme

Kieran McCormick has been a Registered Nurse since 2008 and since then he has worked in a variety of nursing roles across the public, private and voluntary sector. Kieran's clinical nursing background is in care of the elderly and learning disability, before he later moved in to management in the South Eastern HSC Trust, and more latterly into regulation, having held a Nursing Inspectors post in RQIA. Kieran is currently the Managing Director of Balmoral Healthcare Agency based in Belfast. Kieran is excited and looking forward to be part of the new NIPEC Council and to working with NIPEC staff and the Department of Health in supporting the ongoing development of standards, best practice/guidance, education and professional development for nurses and midwives.

Paddie Blaney

Paddie Blaney was the first Director of All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care (AIHPC) from 2011 to 2015. Since retirement she has been a Trustee on the Board of the homeless charity DePaul Ireland and Northern Ireland for over four years. She is currently a Trustee and Vice-Chair on the Board of the Foyle Hospice where she also chairs their Governance & Risk Committee.

She was previously a Nurse Consultant with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) working on nursing leadership development initiatives in over twenty-five countries across all world regions as well as establishing the first ICN's Global Nursing Leadership Institute (GNLI). Prior to that she was the first Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council for Nursing and Midwifery (NIPEC) from 2002 to 2008 before leaving to take up the ICN post. Paddie has some forty years' experience across the health and social care field.

She began her career as a registered nurse working in a variety of clinical fields specialising in Trauma and Orthopaedics, she worked in hospital business services and contracting then in clinical audit and quality improvement. Prior to NIPEC she worked as a Nursing Officer at the Department of Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland with a Nursing and Midwifery workforce, regulation, education and research portfolio

Professor Dame Judith Hill

Having specialised in Palliative Care throughout her nursing career, Prof Dame Hill served the RCN as Chief Nursing Officer for Northern Ireland for a full decade. She also served as CEO of the Northern Ireland Hospice for almost 15 years and Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Belfast. Prof Dame Hill is an active supported of the grief recovery programme, Griefshare, trustee to Big House Ireland and mentor to the CS Lewis Institute Belfast discipleship programme. She was appointed as trustee to the Nazareth Trust on 2016.

Captain Niall Downey FRCSI

Niall qualified as a doctor from Trinity College, Dublin in 1993. He trained as a surgeon in Belfast and received his FRCSI in 1997. He was a trainee in cardio-thoracic surgery working as an SHO in the Royal Victoria Hospital before returning to Dublin where he worked as a registrar in the National Cardiac Surgery Unit.

He subsequently retrained as an airline pilot with Aer Lingus in 1999 and combined working full time in aviation with medicine by working as an Accident & Emergency doctor for six years before focusing fully on aviation. After operating as a co-pilot on both the European and Trans-Atlantic fleets, he qualified as a captain in 2010. He has held commands on their A320, A321 neo and Boeing 757 fleets since then and is currently operating as a captain on their Airbus A330 fleet Trans-Atlantic fleet.

In 2011, he formed Framework Health Ltd, a company providing aviation-style safety training modified specifically for healthcare which draws on his thirty-five years of experience between both industries. This project aims to share aviation's Safety Management System with healthcare in order to address the huge issue of Adverse Events, usually caused by systemic faults but often blamed on the last individual to have touched the ball. Niall aims to encourage healthcare to adopt a Just Culture, embed a systemic Human Factors approach and empower patients and their families to speak up as part of the crew.

He has provided courses for GP practice-based pharmacists in Northern Ireland in conjunction with NICPLD and has spoken at conferences in Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Alder Hey Trust in Liverpool, the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow, the GMC, the PDA, the Royal Society of Medicine, the BMI London Independent Hospital and the Homerton Hospital in London amongst others. Internationally, he has spoken at the World Football Academy Expert Meeting in Lisbon on Error Management's application in soccer and at the European Solid Organ Transplantation conference in Copenhagen in September 2019. More recently he spoke at the RSNA conference in Chicago in 2022. In 2016, Niall was a speaker at TEDx Stormont in Belfast. He was also appointed as an Expert Advisor that year to advise the Northern Ireland Executive's new Improvement Institute which was set up under the Bengoa Report on how aviation can help healthcare address the huge issue of human error and learn to manage it.

Niall has contributed articles to specialist healthcare journals as well as national newspapers such as the Irish Times and has been interviewed on RTE TV News and Virgin Media as well as BBC Radio. He has recently written a book on the increasingly topical issue of error across industry and society generally and most importantly, how to address it.

'Oops! Why Things Go Wrong' was released in the UK in June 2023 and in the USA in September 2023. The book has received very positive reviews and is already in its second print run.

Peter May – Permanent Secretary DoH

Peter May is currently Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health.

Previously Peter was Permanent Secretary at the Department for Justice, the Department for Infrastructure and the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure. A career civil servant, his previous roles include Director, Safer Communities, DoJ and Principal Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister.

Linda Kelly – CE NIPEC

Linda commenced as Chief Executive of NIPEC on 14 March 2022. Previously Linda was Interim Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health, NI. Linda has been registered as a nurse since 1990 and over the course of her career has completed her BSC (Hons) in Nursing and MSc in Public Health and has worked extensively, developing her career across a wide variety of acute and community nursing posts in Northern Ireland.

Linda has a long spanning career with a background in District Nursing, Care Management and Governance Lead posts. In 2011 Linda took up post as Assistant Director of Nursing: Safe and Effective Care, in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

She progressed her interest in continuous improvement through completion of the Institute of Health Improvement (IHI) Improvement Advisor Programme in 2016. In 2019 she graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma in Healthcare Management from London South Bank University following completion of the Aspiring Nurse Director Programme, before taking up a secondment to the Department of Health as Deputy Chief Nursing Officer in March 2020.

Maria McIlgorm – Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health

As the head of the Nursing and Midwifery professions, Maria is responsible for the professional leadership, performance and development of the Professions in Northern Ireland, including providing support to the Department's lead Allied Health Professions (AHP) Officer.

The Office of the Chief Nursing Officer sets strategic direction for nursing, midwifery services, agreeing programmes of action, setting goals and targets and ensuring that progress is monitored and evaluated. This includes chairing the Department's Central Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Committee, and the development and oversight of policies for nursing and midwifery in Public Health, for example, the Family Nurse Partnership Programme (FNP), the Northern Ireland Action Plan for Learning Disability Nursing, a Northern Ireland Framework for Patient Experience and the District Nursing Review Framework. In undertaking this role, Maria works closely with the Directors of Nursing and her counterparts in the other 3 UK countries and Republic of Ireland.

Anne Trotter

Anne is the Assistant Director for Education and Standards in the Professional Practice directorate at the NMC. Her role includes leading on the development of new standards and guidance for nursing and midwifery professions including the recent Code campaign animation series: 'Caring with confidence'.

Anne led on the education change programme that has successfully published new standards for Future Nurse, Future Midwife, post-registration and education and training standards that includes the new standards for student supervision and assessment, and nurse and midwife prescriber standards. She is currently leading on the review of advanced practice. Anne is a registered children's nurse and adult nurse and was awarded a BEM for her services to public health in the late Queen's birthday honours in 2022



The Equal Notes choir is a day opportunity offered by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust for service users within their learning disability services programme. The choir members come from across the city and meet every Friday morning to rehearse at the POD in Cityside Retail Centre. There are 25 members in the choir and a small group will perform today. The choir choose the songs and how they are performed, and their mission is to spread positive feelings and have fun!

Dr Katrin Lehmann

Katrin Lehmann is the Consultant Nurse CAMHS & Emotional Wellbeing in the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust with extensive experience working in child & adolescent mental health services as a clinician and team lead. She initially qualified as a paediatric nurse and gained further knowledge and experience in mental health. Katrin is a Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) registered clinical nurse specialist mental health and independent non-medical prescriber. She recently completed the Advanced Practice MSc in Mental Health across the Lifespan. Katrin is also an academic, completing a Public Health Agency NI funded clinical research study for her PhD in 2020. Katrin has published a number of papers in relation to autism and gender variance.

Karen Diamond

Ms Karen Diamond is a lay member of the NIPEC council. She has been a qualified music therapist for over 30 years working with children and adults in various care pathways specialising in early years, long-term conditions and learning disability. You heard the Equal Notes Choir earlier which she founded and directs.

Karen is a singer by background and has facilitated many workshops across Ireland and other parts of the UK. She trained in 'singing for chronic lung conditions' and leads singing for health and wellbeing groups in the Northern Trust and for NI Chest Heart & Stroke. She also co-founded the Resilient Rhythms programme which draws on evidence-based models and proven strategies to help participants to 'Reconnect with their body, mind, voice, and breath'. Recognizing that not everyone feels confident using their voice the sessions take a fun, engaging approach to the psychological safety and self-care of participants. She assures us no solos necessary!

Vicky Burns

Referrals into gynaecology services for post-menopausal bleeding and unscheduled menstrual bleeding have seen a vast increase within the UK. Trusts have struggled to meet the demand of red flag referrals with numbers in the NHSCT more than doubling per month when compared to last year. The NHSCT have long anticipated this surge in demand and have been pro-active in identifying how nurse-led clinics can diversify the way these patients are reviewed, diagnosed and treated. Following extensive training and experience in gynaecology care; Vicky Burns became the 1st and only nurse hysteroscopic within Northern Ireland who sees patients with unscheduled bleeding and diagnosing uterine cancers & pre-cancers.

Tori Jackson

My Name is Tori Jackson. I'm 21 years old and have just completed my BSc Midwifery degree. I have a job within the South Eastern Trust as a Band 5 Midwife, having completed all of my placements there as a student.

I previously attended Strathearn School, Belfast and enjoyed hobbies such as singing, playing the harp and was a member of the orchestra, choir, chamber choir and taking our performances further afield and winning Songs of praise in 2019.

Throughout my time at Queens, I have enjoyed being part of the CoMC student group in Queens and as a member of the SE Trust Implementation Group. I have learnt many valuable lessons through being a member of the group and it has helped me gain a better understanding of the policies and the importance of undertaking positive change.

I am looking forward to my career in midwifery with excitement and in anticipation of all the amazing progress to come. Midwifery has taught me to be kind, compassionate and understanding in all situations and it's something that I take with me in all aspects of life.